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| UNITED  NATIONS |  | MC |
|  |  | **UNEP/**MC/EE.2/1/Add.1 |
| Description: Description: EP | United Nations  Environment  Programme | Distr.: General 25 March 2019  English only |

Meeting of the Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on

Effectiveness Evaluation

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Geneva, Switzerland, 8-12 April 2019

Annotations to the provisional agenda[[1]](#footnote-2)

1. The Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Effectiveness Evaluation at its first meeting in Ottawa, Canada, on 5-9 March 2018 elected Ms. Kateřina Šebková and Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh as co-chairs. As requested from the Conference of the Parties in its decision MC-2/11, the secretariat cooperated with the co-chairs to prepare the agenda and documents for the second meeting to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8-12 April 2019. The present document sets out annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/MC/EE.2/1), with further proposal as to how the deliberations at the meeting should be structured.
2. The co-chairs agree that this meeting should be conducted as a result-oriented meeting for preparing a report to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third session to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 25-29 November 2019. The members and observers are expected to engage in the drafting of parts of the report relevant to their expertise. The co-chairs expect that a draft report addressing a complete range of issues from the mandate in MC 2/11 given to the group by the Conference of the Parties should be ready at the closure of the meeting in a form as close as possible to its final one, which will be completed a couple of weeks after the meeting and circulated to the group for final confirmation. That document will be then shared with all stakeholders for comments in the run up to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting will be opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, 8 April 2019. The co-chairs will preside the meeting.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

1. The group may wish to adopt the agenda of the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set forth in document UNEP/MC/EE.2/1.

(b) Organization of work

1. The group may wish to invite the secretariat to briefly present the work done by the group in preparation for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the revised mandate given by the Conference in its decision MC-2/11, set out as an annex to document UNEP/MC/EE.2/2.
2. In view of the need for in-depth discussion on specific matters included in the mandates from the Conference of the Parties, and the need for dedicated drafting work by members and observers, the group may wish to consider a format of the meeting that allows plenary discussions on key issues and in-depth discussion and writing by smaller groups, with a regular reporting back from the smaller groups to the plenary.
3. The group may wish to have two working groups, one on effectiveness evaluation framework and the other on monitoring arrangement, as it did at its first meeting, noting that the membership of the group was amended taking into account the desire of the Conference of the Parties to augment the capabilities of the group in the area of effectiveness evaluation. The secretariat will circulate a suggested list of experts in these two working groups before the meeting. The working groups may wish to divide into smaller sub-groups, or to form joint sub-groups consisting of experts selected from both working groups, as appropriate.
4. The group may wish to meet daily starting on Monday, 8 April until Friday, 12 April, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The group may wish to refer to a suggested structuring of the discussion in plenary and working groups, as set out in the annex to this document, with changes as appropriate.

Item 3

Consideration of the effectiveness evaluation framework

1. The group may wish to note that the Conference of the Parties in its decision 2/11 requested the group to undertake the following tasks:
   1. Using the objective of the Minamata Convention, review and assess the detailed   
      article-by-article process and outcome indicators in table 4 of document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/8. The ad hoc technical expert group will elaborate on the sources of information and baselines for those indicators, considering cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility and sustainability, and, on that basis, provide detailed rationales for the recommended indicators;
   2. Identify which recommended indicators require monitoring data, in particular in relation to the control measures and objectives set out in the articles of the Convention;
   3. Develop a methodology for integrating the recommended indicators with a view to providing an integrative picture of the general effectiveness of the Convention, (e.g., by use of aggregated or cross-cutting indicators); and
   4. Amend the recommended draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee and the schedule for the first effectiveness evaluation, if needed, on the basis of the outcome of the above.
2. The group has before it a compilation of comments on effectiveness evaluation framework (UNEP/MC/EE.2/5). It may also wish to refer to the overview of submitted information (UNEP/MC/EE.2/3) and the compilation of comments on the report of the group submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its second session (UNEP/MC/EE.2/4).
3. The working group on effectiveness evaluation framework may wish to lead the deliberations on this agenda item.

Item 4

Consideration of the monitoring arrangements

1. The group may wish to note that the Conference of the Parties in its decision 2/11 requested the group to undertake the following tasks:
2. Identify:
3. Which categories of the available[[2]](#footnote-3) comparable[[3]](#footnote-4) monitoring data would be most effective in providing information on global trends (distinguishing these data from data that may be of use for informing local, national and/or regional policies);
4. What monitoring data in air, water, biota, and humans could be used to assess the impact on levels and trends of mercury; and
5. The potential and limitations of the data identified, taking into account the impacts other than anthropogenic emissions and releases on these spatial and temporal trends;
6. Assess the extent to which the information reviewed meets the needs for monitoring as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 22 of the Convention and identify major gaps that could affect the usability of available data. Outline options or recommendations to enhance the comparability and completeness of the information;
7. With the aim of filling gaps in globally relevant monitoring data, for the options and recommendation outlined above, compare their cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility, and sustainability, global coverage, and regional capabilities to identify opportunities for future enhancements to monitoring;
8. Identify available modelling capabilities to assess changes in global mercury levels within and across different media;
9. Examine options and identify sources of data based on those options that can be used for establishing a baseline for monitoring data;
10. Provide other technical inputs and necessary information to address any additional monitoring questions that may be identified in the course of elaborating the evaluation framework; and
11. Draft terms of reference for global monitoring arrangements, including developing monitoring guidance.
12. The group has before it a compilation of comments on monitoring arrangements (UNEP/MC/EE.2/6). It may also wish to refer to the overview of submitted information (UNEP/MC/EE.2/3) and the compilation of comments on the report of the group submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its second session (UNEP/MC/EE.2/4).
13. The working group on monitoring arrangements may wish to lead the deliberations on this agenda item.

Item 5

Preparation of the report on the work of the ad hoc technical expert group

1. The group may wish to note that the Conference of the Parties in its decision 2/11 specified an outline of the report of the group as follows:
   1. Executive summary
   2. Introduction
   3. Description of the effectiveness evaluation framework
   4. Proposed methodology and schedule for the evaluation
   5. Issues for further considerations, if any
   6. Annex 1: Technical information on monitoring, if any
   7. Annex 2: Draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee
   8. Annex 3: Draft terms of reference of the global monitoring arrangements
2. The group may wish to draft the report on the basis of the discussion on items 3 and 4, breaking into smaller groups and/or form joint sub-groups, as appropriate.

Item 6

Other matters

1. The group may wish to consider how it should develop a report of the meeting, which may consist of brief proceedings of the meeting and a draft report to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third session.
2. The group may wish to note that the Conference of the Parties requested in its decision MC-2/11 that a draft report be open for comments from parties from August to mid-September, and the final report be available for the Conference of the Parties in October 2019. It may also wish to note that the documents for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties need to be submitted to the UN Environment’s headquarters for translation by 9 August 2019, and that the draft report to be posted for comments may be published as a working document for the Conference of the Parties, and the final report may be published either as a revision to the working document or as an information document.
3. The group may wish to consider other matters raised during the meeting.

Item 7

Closure of the meeting

1. It is expected that the meeting will conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday, 12 April 2019.

**ANNEX:** Suggested structuring of the discussions at the second meeting of the Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Effectiveness Evaluation

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| **Effectiveness evaluation framework** | **Monitoring arrangement** |
| DAY 1: Monday 8 April | |
| 9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. Item 1: Opening of the meeting  Item 2: Organizational matters | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Item 3 Consideration of the effectiveness evaluation framework  - PLENARY led by framework working group. | |
| 3a: Review and assessment of the detailed article-by-article process and outcome indicators in table 4 of document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/8, using the objective of the Minamata Convention. This includes elaboration on the sources of information and baselines for those indicators, considering cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility and sustainability, and provision of detailed rationales for the recommended indicators on that basis. |  |
| 3b: Identification of recommended indicators that require monitoring data, in particular in relation to the control measures and objectives set out in the articles of the Convention |  |
| 2.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Item 4: Consideration of the monitoring arrangements  - PLENARY led by monitoring working group. | |
|  | 4ai: Identification of categories of the available comparable monitoring data that would be most effective in providing information on global trends (distinguishing these data from data that may be of use for informing local, national and/or regional policies);  4aii: Identification of monitoring data in air, water, biota, and humans that could be used to assess the impact on levels and trends of mercury; and  4aiii: Identification of the potential and limitations of the data identified, taking into account the impacts other than anthropogenic emissions and releases on these spatial and temporal trends; |
|  | 4b: Assessment of the extent to which the information reviewed meets the needs for monitoring as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 22 of the Convention, identification of major gaps that could affect the usability of available data, and outlining options or recommendations to enhance the comparability and completeness of the information |
|  | 4c: Comparison of the options and recommendations outlined above for their cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility, sustainability, global coverage and regional capabilities to identify opportunities for future enhancements to monitoring, with the aim of filling gaps in globally relevant monitoring data |
| 5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Day 1 wrap up – Identification of key issues for further deliberations and those for drafting by sub-groups. Homework may include preparation of arguments and reasoning on key issues so that they are ready for drafting stage, and who can draft which part of the report. | |
| DAY 2: Tuesday 9 April | |
| 9.00 a.m.- 9.30 a.m. Recapturing Day 1 discussion – co-chairs proposal for the plan for the day and the drafting work during the meeting | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. Item 4: Consideration of the monitoring arrangements  - plenary led by monitoring working group. | |
|  | 4d: Identification of available modelling capabilities to assess changes in global mercury levels within and across different media |
|  | 4e: Examination of options and identification of sources of data based on those options that can be used for establishing a baseline for monitoring data |
| 11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Item 3 Consideration of the effectiveness evaluation framework  - plenary led by framework working group. | |
| 3c: Development of a methodology for integrating the recommended indicators with a view to providing an integrative picture of the general effectiveness of the Convention, (e.g., by use of aggregated or cross-cutting indicators) |  |
| 2.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Item 5: Preparation of the report on the work of the ad hoc technical expert group  - Drafting by working groups | |
| 5b: Introduction  5c: Description of the effectiveness evaluation framework  5d: Proposed methodology and schedule for the evaluation  5e: Issues for further consideration, if any | 5f: Annex 1: Technical information on monitoring, if any |
| 5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Day 2 wrap up – identification of remaining issues for discussion | |
| DAY 3: Wednesday 10 April | |
| 9.00 a.m.- 9.30 a.m. Recapturing Day 2 discussion – first draft of the report (5b – 5f) | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. Continued drafting by small groups, with feedback to plenary | |
| 5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Day 3 wrap up – identification of remaining issues for discussion | |
| DAY 4: Thursday 11 April | |
| 9.00 a.m.- 9.30 a.m. Recapturing Day 3 discussion – second draft of the report (5b – 5f) | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. Item 3 Consideration of the effectiveness evaluation framework  - plenary led by framework working group | |
| 3d: Amendment to the recommended draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee and the schedule for the first effectiveness evaluation, if needed, on the basis of the outcome of the above. |  |
| 11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Item 4: Consideration of the monitoring arrangements  - plenary led by monitoring working group | |
|  | 4g: Draft terms of reference for global monitoring arrangements, including developing monitoring guidance |
| 2.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Item 5: Preparation of the report on the work of the ad hoc technical expert group  - Drafting by working groups | |
| 5g: Annex 2: Draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee | 5h: Annex 3: Draft terms of reference for global monitoring arrangements |
| 5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Day 4 wrap up –identification of remaining issues for discussion | |
| DAY 5: Friday 12 April | |
| 9.00 a.m.- 9.30 a.m. Recapturing Day 4 discussion – draft report | |
| 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Continued drafting by small groups, with feedback to plenary | |
| 4.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Item 5: Preparation of the report on the work of the ad hoc technical expert group  Plenary review of the draft report. | |
| 5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Item 6: Other business  Item 7: Closure of the meeting | |

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1. This document has not been formally edited. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Available data cover both data presently available and future data collection. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Data are comparable when collected based on identical methodologies. Data may also be made comparable by using standardized and known scientific methodologies. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)